

Exceptional Efforts in Public Health

Tina L'Estrange the Communicable Disease Nurse for the **Weber/Morgan Health District** recently received a call from a concerned mother whose son was recently diagnosed with a "mumps like" infection. Since the case had not been reported, Tina obtained the patient's medical record and found that no lab testing was done to determine the cause of the patient's left sided parotitis. Tina was not satisfied with this, so she went to the patient's home and collected a urine and throat sample for culture at the state lab. The state lab reported both samples were **positive** for the virus! Tina has since collected clinical specimens from a second case with parotitis, also culture positive, that may have gone undetected.

July 1, 2003 marked the first rabies case reported in Uintah County in two years and the fourth Utah case reported during the year. An unvaccinated cat was exposed to a rabid bat and was quarantined for an indefinite period. Approximately 30 additional cats, on the same property where the exposure occurred, were quarantined pending confirmation of an adequate vaccination history. **The TriCounty Health Department** worked closely with local law enforcement, animal shelters, veterinarians, and media to prevent alarm within the community and establish preventive measures. The department hosted a radio program to discuss rabies, including disease prevention and the importance of animal vaccinations. They also coordinated with local veterinarians to hold an animal vaccination clinic with reduced rates.

We would like to recognize **Stephanie Hurt** from the **Summit County Health Department** for her extra effort during the 4th of July weekend. Stephanie found out about a possible human exposure to a bat and personally drove the bat down to the Utah Public Health Laboratory in Salt Lake. The bat tested negative for rabies. Thanks to this effort, the bite victim did not have to begin the post-exposure shots.